

TC In	Who	Spoken words
00:00:00	Dr. Billy Hensley	(Dr. Hensley) Welcome to the premiere episode of <i>Focus on FinEd: The Policy Convenings</i> , a limited series podcast.
00:00:08	Dr. Billy Hensley	I'm Dr. Billy Hensley, president and CEO of the National Endowment for Financial Education, also known as NEFE.
00:00:15	Dr. Billy Hensley	We are in the midst of an exciting time for financial education and the work to advance financial well-being.
00:00:21	Dr. Billy Hensley	But it's certainly not without challenges.
00:00:23	Dr. Billy Hensley	There's just no other way to look at it.
00:00:25	Dr. Billy Hensley	From college affordability to financial fragility due to the pandemic, leaders and policymakers at the highest levels are continuously analyzing key issues and putting their resources toward solutions.
00:00:38	Dr. Billy Hensley	Financial education intermediaries are mobilizing to provide support to all those in need, and they are searching for the right answers in what works best.
00:00:47	Dr. Billy Hensley	But the responsibility is on leaders in their field to guide them.
00:00:52	Dr. Billy Hensley	Twenty months ago, our team set out to explore how we can improve financial education for the next 20 years and beyond.
00:00:59	Dr. Billy Hensley	In the past, NEFE has been known for spearheading successful financial education curricula used by more than a million students, teachers and adults.
00:01:08	Dr. Billy Hensley	However, we noticed the field evolving, and I knew we had the capability to be so much more, based on the knowledge, talent, and partnerships available to us.
00:01:17	Dr. Billy Hensley	We always have and always will pivot to provide what this field needs most.
00:01:22	Dr. Billy	With the focus on the future, we have some exciting plans.

	Hensley	
00:01:26	Dr. Billy Hensley	But to make them work, we need to hear more about the issues, challenges and gaps from stakeholders around the country.
00:01:32	Dr. Billy Hensley	During 2021, in partnership with the Council for Economic Education, we hosted a series of policy convenings, taking a deep dive into some of the most pertinent issues the financial education field faces.
00:01:46	Dr. Billy Hensley	We invited advocates from around the country to share what they see every day in their states and local communities.
00:01:51	Dr. Billy Hensley	We listened. We learned.
00:01:54	Dr. Billy Hensley	We heard about the successes and shortcomings from more than 250 experts, representing 44 states.
00:02:01	Dr. Billy Hensley	We discussed the issues behind post-secondary education, alternatives to financial education mandates, evidence-based financial education programming, financial education in rural communities, and how financial education can better support diverse cultures.
00:02:17	Dr. Billy Hensley	We collected dozens of hours of material and began summarizing these dialogues to determine common themes.
00:02:24	Dr. Billy Hensley	Those summaries are now available on our website: www.nefe.org .
00:02:32	Dr. Billy Hensley	However, the summaries are just the launch pad.
00:02:36	Dr. Billy Hensley	Step 2 is this discussion series of <i>Focus on FinEd: The Policy Convenings</i> , where we start unpacking what was discussed at these events and explore what the next steps could and should be.
00:02:48	Dr. Billy Hensley	In general, the efforts of the financial education field are well-intentioned but a bit scattered.
00:02:53	Dr. Billy Hensley	We strive for immediate results instead of strategic steady progress.
00:02:58	Dr. Billy Hensley	This allows contrarians, those who don't believe financial education is effective or even necessary, to have an active voice in this debate.
00:03:06	Dr. Billy Hensley	Advocates that know this field understand that a victory for one does not mean a loss for another.
00:03:12	Dr. Billy	What it means is a precedent, a blueprint, a stepping-stone for achieving

	Hensley	the next victory.
00:03:18	Dr. Billy Hensley	Throughout this series, you will hear from convening participants and thought leaders.
00:03:22	Dr. Billy Hensley	By the end of seven episodes, you will understand where the issues exist and how we can use the plights of communities to develop broad proposals for solutions, viable for policymakers on the state, local and national level.
00:03:36	Dr. Billy Hensley	At NEFE, we've taken steps in policy positioning as part of our transition to an institute that is focused on advocacy in building a research agenda that will advance the financial education field forward.
00:03:48	Dr. Billy Hensley	As part of this process, we've elevated Raven Newberry into the role of Director of Policy and Advocacy at NEFE.
00:03:54	Dr. Billy Hensley	She will be leading our conversations.
00:03:57	Dr. Billy Hensley	We hope these discussions encourage those new to the field to join the dialogue and spur those already in the field to keep going.
00:04:05	Dr. Billy Hensley	The time is now to come together and provide direction.
00:04:08	Dr. Billy Hensley	And with that, enjoy our podcast series, a <i>Focus on FinEd: The Policy Convenings</i> .